GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1355
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2000
POLLUTION IN MARGHERITA COAL BELT
PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from the local people and concerned groups about large scale pollution in the Margherita Coal belt due to the Open Cast Mines;

(b) whether the North Eastern Coalfields (NEC) have notput up any affluent control system to check the water and environmental pollution in the vicinity of the Open Cast Minings sites;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the North Eastern Coalfields has beenpursuing the afforestation programme to offset the environmental degradation being caused by the Open Cast Mines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. NEC has arrangement to check the environmental pollution and effluent treatment.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(d) & (e) Afforestation programme has been taken up by NEC in integrated areas by opencast mines. Details of afforestation done in last five years are given below:-
Year Tikak Tirap
1995-96 40,000 50,000 1996-97 50,000 57,000 1997-98 50,000 50,000 1998-99 35,000 10,000 1999-2000 30,000 20,000
However, complete afforestation shall only be possible when mining activities in opencast mines are fully completed.

(f) Not applicable in view of (d) & (e) above.